

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION

Saturday, October 11. 1707.

I Have done with Discouragements, I shall talk no more of them; I should have talk'd of the Persons, but really they are so well known, that to speak of them, is but to tell them the same Tale over again and over again. The Nation knows them, they need little Description, for they take Care to make themselves known on all Occasions; they have various Names and Titles, by which they are dignify'd and distinguish'd, such as *Tackers, High-Flyers, Non-Furors, Jacobites, Anti-Unioners, Scottish Prelatists*, and the like; Names various in Sound, but perfectly synonymous, in general Acceptation signifying the same thing.

And let no Man take Exception at the Word Prelacy here; for if they are ignorant in that, they shall not long be so, un-

less it be their own Fault; for I shall take some more effectual Care, than has yet been taken, to make evident the Difference between a *Scottish* Prelate, and an *English* Bishop; and therein make no Doubt to clear the Church of *Scotland*, and the Government there too, from all the black List of the Persecutions lay'd to her Charge.

These are the Persons, that cry out, We are dejected and discourag'd, and that go up and down with Exclamations; that are always crying out of our Losses, and making their Heads at our sad Condition, when their real Grief is, that it is no worse; of whom we may say, as *Sam. Colvil*, in another Case, *The Case is bad, and they are Lyars*, because it is not so bad as they make it.

Not

Nor are these People able to bring even this Mischief to pass; Impotent in begetting, and prompt to Abortions in bringing forth, has, *Thanks be to GOD*, been the just Character of their Party; their Cause has been curs'd from GOD, a *miscarrying Womb and dry Breasts* have been its Portion in all their Projects, and had they any Sence in their Prosecution of these things, *I mean*, Sence of Providence, Sence of invisible Justice, they would see Heaven fights against them, and so abandon the falling House, as *Vermine of a less noxious Quality* are said to do in other Cases.

But as it generally is in a People, that are appointed for a Fall, secret Insatiables continually possess them; they are led by the *Ignis fatui* of their own Brain, to truit in the meanest and most abject Shifts, and to have Recourse to such ridiculous, as well as wicked Methods to support their tottering Hopes, that really expose them sufficiently, and they need no Satyr upon them, but their own Proceedings, which really are Satyr sufficient.

And how like the rest of their abortive Projects does this look? We are dejected and discourag'd, that is, they would have us be so, *but Thanks to them as much as if we did*: We see no Cause for it yet; we are sorry indeed, the Work is not done yet; but since it cannot be helped, we must go on again, the Work *must be done*, and they may rest assur'd, this War cannot end, *till it is done*. The Expence, Blood, Treasure and Time, that have been expended, must not be lost; the Possession of *Spain* to the *French* must not be left, if all the Treasure, Blood, and Strength of the *British* and *Dutch* Empires in *Europe* can rescue it out of their Hands; and therefore 'tis in vain for us to talk of concluding the War, till that be brought to pass.

And *how shall this be done now*, is a Question, a wise Body would be glad to see answer'd; and yet I'll form an Answer to it, that both States-man and Soldier shall agree to—The Sum is but short.

Let us get but the Emperor and the Allies to make it the principal Business of the War, and apply to it as such, and it may be done sooner, than we yet see Rea-

son to expect it; It has been prosecuted hitherto too faintly, the Emperor has look'd on it too remotely, he has supply'd little to it, but the Person of King *Charles*; but has push'd on heartily enough in *Italy*, *Savoy*, and *Naples*.

Now, let the Emperor and the Duke of *Savoy* stand upon the *Defensive*, with a good Army on the Frontiers of *Piedmont*, which will nevertheless keep the *French* on the Guard there with 50000 Men; let all the Troops possible be spared from *Naples*, *Milain*, and from the Grand Army, which together may be suppos'd to be about 15000 Foot, and 4000 Dragoons.

Let but that Force joyn King *Charles* in *Catalognia*, and do it in Season; let the *English* and *Dutch* on the other Hand, send about 15000 Men well furnish'd, to joyn the King of *Portugal's* Troops, and 10000 Men to sustain our brave Remnant at *Alicant* and *Denia*, and these be old Troops, not raw Men; let them with just Concert, and well digested Measures, act under good Generals, be well furnish'd, well cloth'd and pay'd, I am fully perswaded, they would account for *Spain* in one Years Time, in Spight of all the Endeavours of the *French* to oppose it.

Nothing has been truly fatal to our Affairs in *Spain*, but sending raw, unseasoned Men, and too few of them also; to send 100000 Men thither, 4000 and 5000, and 10000 in a Parcel; is but murdering the Men, throwing away their Lives, ruining and betraying our Interest, and our Friends there, and wasting the Time and Treasure to no Purpose; but send 40000 Men thither, and send them all at once; they'll do the Work at once, and then you may hope not to have it to do over again.

This is my Way of answering the great Question of *How must this be done*; and I am perswaded, it will pass for an Answer with any reasonable Person, and I do believe, that till this Work is thus set heartily ab ur, it can never be brought to the demand'd Issue; it will be always supplying us with ill News and Distresses, and leave us farther off from finishing it, than when we first began.

Oh! Had the 16000, which were sent to Naples, an Expedition we have great Cause to regret, and which is yet in a fair Way to be unravell'd; that most variable Trifle, the Hofannahs of the People, being yet the principal Part of all their Success, which to Morrow may turn like a Tide against them. Had, I say, those Men been ship'd to Spain, landed in Catalognia, and join'd the Earl of Galloway, great Part of the Work in

Spain had been over, and the Duke of Orleans might have gone home again, *a-la mode de Turin*—— But 'tis in vain to wish, or indeed to hope for any thing to the Purpose, from Councils so manag'd as those have been, which sent that Army a Kingdom Hunting, when two such Cases as *Thoulon* and *Catalognia* lay a Bleeding for Want of those Troops.

MISCELLANEA.

I Cannot but re-print here the Letter sent me in the last *Miscellanea*; the Answer to it being something significant.

MR. REVIEW,

IN one of your late Reviews, Dated September 6. You seem to answer the Rehearsal's Objection very faintly——He says, the Scots Presbyterians will pull down the Church of England, if possible; that 'tis their Principle, he proves by an Address of theirs to the Parliament against the Treaty, wherein they profess it; and that if they have Opportunity, those Principles will naturally lead them to it, is very just arguing; pray how will you answer that?——Your saying these People are Cameronians, and disown'd by the Kirk of Scotland, is a weak Argument; for they are a great People, and may either do it without the Kirk, or the Kirk may join with them, or they may be oblig'd by them to join in this Alliance; and where are we then, is it safe to unite with such People?

For Answer to this, I say,

First, The Gentleman is mistaken in his Notion of the Union, for here is no Union between the Churches in either Nation——But in the Civil Government and State, they are united as a Nation, but not as a Church; and therefore by the Acts of Parliament in either Kingdom, it was expressly directed, That the Treaties should have no Power, so much as to enter upon any Treaty of Church Affairs; the two Churches are reserv'd to Settlements in

Rise and apart, their Securities are reciprocal, and cannot be invaded; to say this Church will pull down that or that, this is to say nothing, they can do nothing towards it upon the Foot of the Union, for the Law is their Limits positive and express; to say they may do it by Force, is to say nothing neither as to the Union, for by the same Force they were as capable before, and we are in no more Danger of it now, than we were then; so the Union has nothing to do with it.

Secondly, This Gentleman seems to know very little of the *Cameronians*——We have indeed heard famous things of them in former Days, when the late abdicated Tyranny, massacred, murder'd and destroy'd them without Mercy, and when their Zeal and Constancy for Religion was such, as few Ages can parallel, and dreadful Monuments of the Butcheries of that Time remain, which till I came into that Country, I could not have believ'd. But, Sir, you are to understand, there is a great Difference between the *Cameronians*; who then were call'd so, and who appear'd against the Encroachments of Prelacy, as 'tis there call'd, and who then possess'd all the South and South West Parts of Scotland——And the *Cameronians*, now call'd so, who refuse to comply with, or own the Kirk, and are the Men here spoken of: These being but a small Remain of the other, a few poor, weak People, who being mix'd into some Errors, of which they are too tenacious, are neither in their Persons, nor their Number.

at all considerable; have but two Ministers, and they not agreeing together; and one, viz. Mr. *Hepburn*, is, since the Writing of that very Answer, come in again to the Kirk, has acknowledg'd his Error, and is reponed and restored Ministerial Communion by the general Assembly.

Thirdly and Lastly, Sir, you will blush, I say, for the Author of the *Rehearsal*; who, in printing that Address, has neither acted like a fair Writer, nor an honest Man, and tho' 'tis a hard Charge, yet I am free to refer it to any one to judge by the following Particulars.

1. That Address made in the Name of the Inhabitants of the *South and West Parts of Scotland*, he gives as the Sense of the Presbyterians in *Scotland*, when he knew, they were not Presbyterians that sign'd it.

2. If he means the *Cameronians*, he is not honest to them neither, and he ought to have acknowledg'd, that when Mr. *Hepburn* carry'd it about among them to get Hands to it, they universally refused it.

And Lastly, this Address, which he prints as a Test of Presbyterian Principles, and which he boasts of with so much Assurance, as a Proof of the Danger of the Church of *England*, had but SEVEN Names to it, when it was presented to the Parliament. *This is what, I say, he should blush at, for his Author.*

No Man in *Britain*, but that Author, can satisfy himself to do these things; and I cannot but wonder at such a particular Hardness in the Face of any Man, that he can look abroad in the World after doing such things.

The Gentleman, who presented this Address, had the Drawing of it himself, *no Doubt*; it was worded, as if it had been calculated to Mr. *Rehearsal's* Palate, and dress'd up for him to make a Show of; but when he came to show it, neither poor or rich, *Kirk* or *Cameronian*, would sign it, but he got but SEVEN Hands to sign it,

and no more—— And with these Tools of his own, he presented to the Parliament; and by a strange Providence, as if on Purpose to make this out, the very Number of Hands, Title, and Person presenting, is printed at large in the Votes of Parliament, and to them I refer; the Number of Hands of Persons Names presenting; being printed to no other Address, but that, during the whole Session.

I hope, Mr. *Rehearsal* will acknowledge, or otherwise account for this Mistake, and I'll give him reasonable Time to do so, before I take any farther Notice of it; but must be excus'd, if I am very free with it afterward.

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